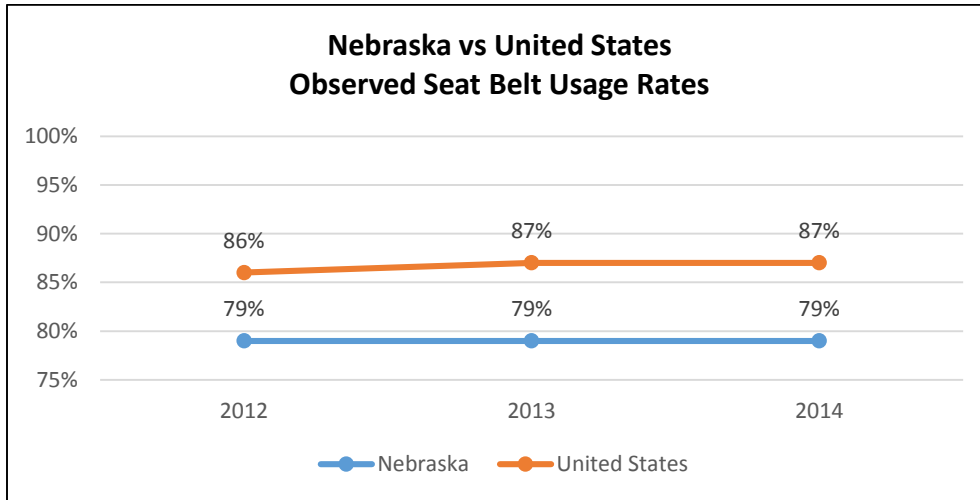


## Seat Belt Use in Nebraska

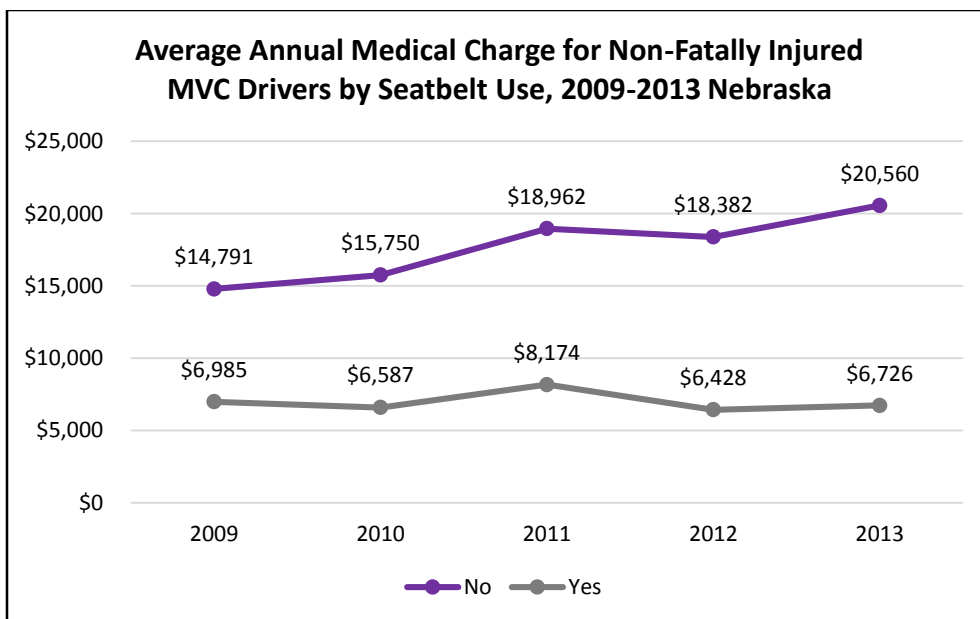
Seat belt use is the single most effective means of reducing motor vehicle crash injuries and deaths. According to the Nebraska Office of Highway Safety, in 2014, 189 motor vehicle occupants were killed, 14,531 injured and 57,188 had no injury due to a motor vehicle crash. Of those killed, 70% were not wearing their seat belt. **Of those not injured, 83% were wearing their seat belt.** Observed seat belt use in Nebraska has remained level from 2012 through 2014 (graph below).



Source: Nebraska Office of Highway Safety

\*From 2012-2014, there were 388 unbelted fatalities.

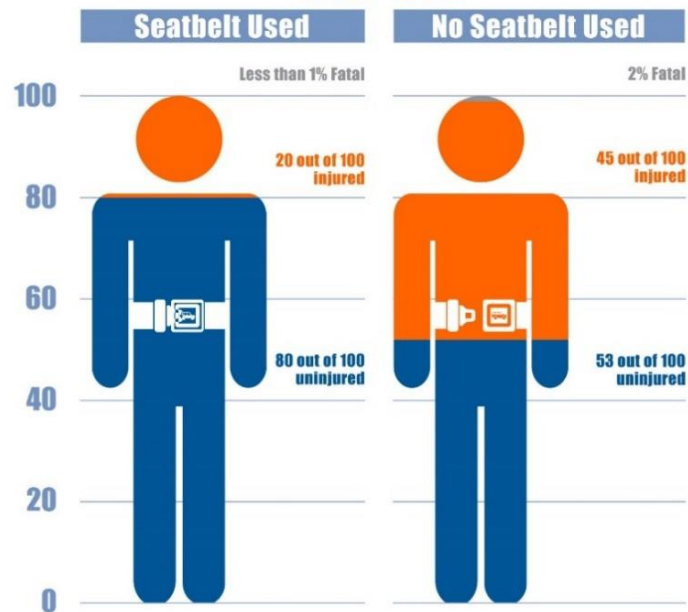
\*According to the Center for Disease Control's PICCS Tool, if 12% more motor vehicle occupants were belted in Nebraska, an additional 11 lives could be saved per year.



Source: NE CODES

\*From 2009-2013, the average medical charge for non-fatally injured drivers who failed to use a seatbelt was \$17,689. For drivers who were belted, the average medical charge was \$6,980. On average, the medical charges for unbelted drivers were over \$10,700 more than for belted drivers (NE CODES).

## How Restrained and Unrestrained Car Occupants Fared in Nebraska Crashes, 2004 - 2013



### Preventative Measures that Work to Increase Seat Belt Use

#### Primary enforcement of seat belt laws

-States with primary enforcement of seat belt laws have median 9% higher seat belt usage rate (The Community Guide *What Works* factsheet, CDC). According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, if all 50 states had primary seatbelt laws from 1995 to 2002, over 12,000 lives would have been saved.

#### Enhanced Enforcement

-Enhanced enforcement programs are added to normal patrol practices and include publicity. Supplemental programs increase the number of officers on patrol which increases the number of citations. According to the Centers of Disease Control and Prevention, observed safety belt use has a median increase of 16 percentage points during enhanced enforcement programs. Fatal and nonfatal injuries combined see decreases of 7% and 15%. (Source: The Guide to Community Prevention Services, CDC, March 2014.)

#### Peer-to-peer safe driving programs

-Since Teens in the Driver Seat started in Texas, in 2002, the number of fatal crashes in the state involving 16-19 year-olds has dropped each year. According to studies done by the Texas Transportation Institute, counties within the state that have implemented the TDS program have seen a 14% drop in teen fatal and injury crashes, compared to counties without the program. Nebraska has schools across the state participating.